

confirm the vague alarm which prevailed, for the news of the weakness of Burr's following had not yet reached the East. ) complete the unfortunate turn things had taken for Jeffer-n, the Republican majority in the Senate lost its head and ,ssed, without the necessary three readings, a bill for the sus-nsion of the *Habeas Corpus*. The bill failed in the House, it it .gave the opposition abundant ground for attack. Fur-errnore, the administration sustained a rebuke when the two complices of Burr whom Wilkinson had sent North were ought before Chief Justice Marshall and promptly discharged Dm custody on the ground of the insufficiency of the evidence nnecting them' with any act of treason. Jefferson saw that his e was to treat the whole conspiracy as a trivial thing. This nc was assumed, as far as was possible, in his special message lating to the conspiracy, but it dominated his correspondence .th Wilkinson. The latter was bent upon retrieving himself L- his dalliance with Burr by a show of extraordinary activity suppressing Burr's schemes. Letters to the President mred in from Wilkinson, magnifying the proportion of the ^terprise and emphasizing its danger to the country. Jeffer-n could not afford to offend him. Still less could he afford

let such representations go unheeded. His correspondence r the period is a marvel of tact and skill. While Jefferson was thus engaged in checking over-enthusi-tic friends, and silencing opponents, Burr came up for exam-ation before Chief Justice Marshall, then holding Circuit court Richmond, Virginia. He had employed an array of counsel r

superior in ability and legal learning to the advocates employed by the government. No sympathy was expected by the [ministration from the Judge who was to preside. On April 1, Judge Marshall delivered an opinion, in which he declined

to commit Burr for treason on the evidence of Eaton and Wilkinson, and he went out of his way to call to task the Executive for neglect of duty in providing proof of treason. He committed Burr for misdemeanor merely, and admitted him to bonds for appearance at the next session of court.

The lethargy of Jefferson during the actual progress of Burr's